

Swim, Bike, Run!



Ten-year-old Molly Kuzma of Foxfire took top honors at the Birkdale Animal Hospital Kids Triathlon Series in Huntersville last month. Read about Molly and her triathlete little brother Charlie on page 9.

Foxfire Council balks at quick decision on water

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Deciding to take a much longer look before they leap, the Foxfire Council elected, during a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 1, to turn down a hastily-drafted offer from Moore County to purchase the Village's water system.

The Village and County have been discussing a possible deal on water for months. But only a week earlier, in a Thursday, July 25 Work Session, County officials asked the Council to make a decision by August 6, so that the purchase of the Foxfire system could be rolled

into a larger expansion of the County water system. [See page 4 for details.]

After listening to the recommendations of Village Attorney Michael Brough, Council members agreed it would be impossible to meet that deadline.

Brough expressed his displeasure with both the looming deadline and the vaguely written agreement provided by the County, which Council members received just hours prior to the August 1 meeting. Brough said he had spoken with County Attorney Misty Leland regarding the contract.

"What I got was that this was all brand new to her," Brough said. "She was asked to draft something and only had one day to put it together.

There was a lot of information that she didn't have."

Under the Gun

The need for a quick decision was driven by a September application deadline the County must meet in order to apply for zero-percent financing from the state revolving loan fund. The goal was to roll the \$1.1 million Foxfire project into a \$12.5 million County project to bring in additional water from Harnett County.

"Obviously, there are a lot of questions and issues to be dealt with, and I don't know if I have any grand suggestion on how to proceed," Brough said. "We do not have a lot of time, and

(See "Foxfire," p. 28)

SLLA Board will seek bids on Ramapo Dam repairs

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The earthen dam that impounds Lake Ramapo is classified "low hazard" by the state.

It is anything but "low hazard" for some lakefront residents.

The recent unprecedented rainfall and a collapsed overflow pipe has literally filled Roberto Salang's basement twice and brought the lake to his door step.

Speaking during the Wednesday, July 31 Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA], Salang told the Board that this is not the first time. It has happened twice in the past.

Expertise a Must

During the July Open Meeting, SLLA Manager Ray Sohl recommended beginning the bid process to engage an engineering company to design a plan for repairing Ramapo's overflow system, with the cost not to exceed \$13,284.

The SLLA Lakes and Dams Committee had contacted the Raleigh-based environmental engineering firm S&ME for guidance. S&ME has worked on SLLA dam-related projects for a number of years, including state-mandated repairs to Echo Dam.

The firm gave general guidelines of what needed to be done and provided a

projected engineering budget for the project, which the Sohl recommended that the Board of Directors approve.

It took a good bit of wrangling to get there, but the Board ultimately agreed that the repair needed to be designed by a qualified engineer.

Necessary Work

Lake Ramapo Dam's overflow pipe is in immediate need of repair.

The original overflow pipe has collapsed, and no longer drains the lake. The two remaining drainage pipes have been unable to keep pace with recent heavy rains.

S&ME proposes plugging the existing pipe and replac-

(See "Ramapo," p. 25)

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Business Guild plans more free concerts

by Cheryl Ann Darwell
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild had a great turnout with over 200 people for the McKenzie Brothers band concert on Friday, July 26. The concert was sponsored by Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, and is one of a series of free events sponsored by the Guild this Summer.

Please come join your neighbors and friends for the next two upcoming free concerts on Friday, August 30



Vann Joyce of Quality Care Pharmacy, Cheryl Darwell or Cruise Planners, and Geri Williams serve up popcorn at Lake House Bar & Grill during the McKenzie Brothers Concert on July 26.

with the area's own McKenzies Mill band. They are a nationally renowned country rock band now living in Nashville. The band was the Winner of 2012 Bud Light's Battle of the Bands.

Join the Guild also on Friday, September 27 for The Sand Band, a favorite of the Sandhills that always draws a crowd.

If any business owner, member of the Guild or a non-profit organization, would like to sponsor all or part of a Guild event; your company will be advertised as a sponsor and you can have a booth

at the concert to reach out to the attendees. This is a fabulous opportunity to promote your business and bring a wonderful free event to the community.

Proceeds from Guild concerts are used for improvements in the Business Village.

All proceeds from the McKenzies Mill concert on August 30 will be donated to the Community Development Fund, which is devoted to maintaining streets in the Village.

For information on Guild membership, contact Cheryl Darwell at 910-673-7245.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

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Deadline	Issue
Fri, Aug 16	Fri, Aug 23
Fri, Aug 30	Fri, Sep 6
Fri, Sep 13	Fri, Sep 20
Fri, Sep 27	Fri, Oct 4
Fri, Oct 11	Fri, Oct 18
Fri, Oct 25	Fri, Nov 1
Fri, Nov 8	Fri, Nov 15
Thu, Nov 21*	Fri, Nov 29
Fri, Dec 6	Fri, Dec 13
Thu, Dec 19*	Fri, Dec 27

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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SLLA Board declines to increase stable herd

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Despite a recent fee increase, the number of rides at the Seven Lakes Stables has increased significantly, Recreation Director Bob Darr reported during the Wednesday, July 31 Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association. The stables have been busy with summer camps, riding lessons and trial rides.

"A lot of your Board Members received graphs showing the increased activity at the stables since last year," Darr said.

Even with a surprising number of rainy days, the stables gave 266 rides, Darr reported. As a result of the growth in ridership, Darr and Stables Manager Kate Pennington had asked the Board to consider adding two horses to the herd.

Responding to skepticism about increased ridership, Darr decided to see for himself.

"People say it can't be possible that we are giving that many rides," he said. I stayed at the stables for a number of days, and I can tell you that these numbers are right."

"A ride is considered a 'ride' every time someone puts their fanny on a saddle," Darr said. "Whether it is to ride around the ring, take a trail ride, or do whatever, it's considered a ride. This month rain and mud have caused the stable staff to cancel some rides. We also had three camps this month that precluded morning rides."

Residents speak up

During the Public Comment period several residents expressed their disapproval of adding two horses.

"I want to talk to the Board about the stables and the proposed need for spending \$6,000 for a horse that will jump and do trail rides," resident John Paulson said.

"It said the stables did 180 trail rides in June of this year. I don't think the numbers add up, and they are

on the high side," Paulson said. "I own nine horses. I know what feed bills and vet bills are. If you are going to get into jumping you are going to have additional problems. You are throwing good money after bad."

The increased stables fees were the main concern of Phil Thingstad.

"Sixteen years ago, we moved down here from Alaska," he said. "Two of the things that were big draws were the lakes and stables. The stables, because my daughter was raised with

horses all of her life. She used to come down and ride four or five days a week for sixteen years."

"Over that time, I have seen the covenants as for as the lakes are concerned totally become irrelevant, and now I see that the stables are headed in the same way," Thingstad said.

"My daughter, she was here for six weeks and she never rode any. Five days a week — no way they are going to spend \$40 a day to ride. My daughters and grandson didn't ride at all. I am really

disappointed with what I have seen over the last sixteen years. I wish I didn't make the mistake to move here, and I am sorry that I did."

Size Matters

Darr defended the proposal to increase the size of the herd.

"If we are going to utilize and have rides scheduled in a reasonable time frame, then we have to increase the herd,"

Darr said. "We have trail rides and pony rides. The addition of these horses has nothing to do with jumping exercises. We have horses that can jump, so that we can provide that. But the addition of horses has to do with trail rides only."

The horses require care year round. Darr broke down the expenses for two additional horses, including the annual cost of feed at \$3600;

(See "Stables," p. 25)



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— Shannon Stites, 7 Lakes West

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Villagers weigh in on sale of water system

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The Foxfire Village Council finally got what they have been asking for: a full house.

More than fifty residents showed up at a Thursday, July 25 public meeting to hear Moore County Public Works Director Randy Gould present the County's proposal to buy Foxfire's water system.

Council members have

been mulling over the idea since February, but the County is urging them to make a decision by August 6, in order to roll the Foxfire water project into a much larger expansion of the County's water sources, and to pay for it all with a zero-interest loan from the state.

There's a September 30 deadline for that loan application, and lots of engineering work and approvals to be done between now and then.

[The Village Council determined that they could not

meet the County's deadline in a Special Meeting held on Thursday, August 1, but the question of whether and how to work with the County on water remains very much alive. See story on page 1 for details.]

Planning for the Future

To put water system proposal in context, Councilman Steve Durham opened the meeting with a brief history of the Long Range Planning Committee, created in 2009 to address future growth,

infrastructure, governance, and financial viability.

Water source studies conducted by Hydrostructures, PA in 2007 and 2008 recommended that the Village consider another main water source, preferably tapping onto Moore County.

"After reviewing all the data, and given the strong recommendation by Hydrostructures . . . the Long Range Planning Committee recommended in 2012-13 to integrate its water system with Moore County," Durham said.

'Time is Short'

Appearing at his second public input session on the

proposal, Moore County's Gould told the Council and citizens that it is time to make a decision.

"This presentation is an accumulation of work that has taken place over long period of time. Time is short," said Gould. "The trigger has got to be pulled now in order to move forward and take advantage of this financial opportunity."

Looking to meet its own future needs for water, Moore County plans to buy into an expansion of the Harnett County Water Plant, which will provide an additional one million gallons of water

(See "Water," p. 15)

Fracking water for Foxfire?

A company called Global Environmental Services, LLC [GES] has another source of water for Foxfire Village: water drawn from the Lumber River near Wagram and bound for the "fracking fields" expected to spring up in North Moore once the state sorts out its regulations for drilling for shale gas.

Representatives of Global Environmental Services, LLC (GES) attended two recent Foxfire Village meetings on a possible sale of the Foxfire water system to Moore County.

GES President and CEO Robert W. Thrush, Jr. sat quietly, as Donald Van Roosen spoke on the company's behalf during public comment. Both men are residents of Pinehurst.

Van Roosen proposed that the Village purchase water from GES.

"We would offer an opportunity to give you an alternate to the County's reasoned and thoughtful approach," Van Roosen said. "We don't agree to some of the premises and would like to see if you would be interested in sitting down with us and negotiate a private water approach. We expect momentarily to get funding."

GES plans to withdraw water from an underutilized industrial water intake on the Lumber River near Wagram. And the primary use for that water, in GES'

plans, is to supply drilling companies as they use hydraulic fracturing — typically called "tracking" to release natural gas from shale deposits in North Moore and Lee County.

Continued growth in Moore County has diminished the

Sandhills ground water. During the meeting Moore County Public Works Director Randy Gould had commented that depending solely on wells for drinking water could be unreliable.

The tracking process of (See "Fracking," p. 19)



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Commissioners approve lease at airport

By Grg Hankins
Times Editor



In a deal that Chairman Nick Picerno called “a win-win for the Moore County taxpayer and the airport,” the Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, August 6 meeting approved a 20-year lease of airport property to Time Saver Aviation, LLC.

Moore County Airport Executive Director Steve Borden explained that Time Saver, a charter company, will pay nearly \$7,200 per year to lease a 28,669 square foot parcel at the airport, using it as the site of a new hangar, office space, and parking. The 100 foot x 125 foot building is expected to cost \$450,000, and will be conveyed to the County once the lease period is completed.

Because of the two-decade length of the lease, under NC General Statutes, it was treated as though the County were actually selling the land, and Time Saver’s proposal was subject to a upset bid process that would have allowed another party to trump the offer. No other offer emerged, and the Commissioners voted unanimously to accept Time Saver’s proposal.

The annual \$7,200 lease

payments will be paid to the Airport Authority, which also expects to benefit from increased fuel sales as a result of Time Saver’s activities at the airport. County taxpayers will benefit from property taxes collected on the value of the hangar building and other improvements to the leased parcel.

That prompted Picerno’s comment that the deal “benefits not only the airport but the taxpayer.”

“Any more of these type deals you want to do,” he told Borden, “bring them on.”

Skeptical of incentives

An economic incentive deal designed to support the expansion of Aberdeen’s International Tray Pads & Packaging Inc., while approved in a three-to-one vote, met with skepticism from Picerno and Commissioner Otis Ritter.

The deal involved a \$15,500 contribution from both the County and the Town of Aberdeen, which, taken together, constituted the local match for a much larger grant funded by the NC Center for Rural Economic Development. The money will be used to connect the company to the sewer network, allowing it to expand operations, including adding a promised thirty-three jobs to the forty-

six individuals it already employs.

The Board had approved a contract cementing the arrangement in May; it came back to them during the August 6 meeting for minor changes in the language of the contract.

Picerno made the same objection to the incentive that he had made in May: the Aberdeen plant is the wholly-owned subsidiary of a multi-billion dollar company.

Ritter joined Picerno in opposition. “I am against subsidies,” Ritter said. “And I will be against this.” Referring to the four other Commissioners, Ritter noted that they were all successful businessmen who had never sought government incentives to grow their businesses.

Commissioner Randy Saunders defended the incentive.

“This will increase the tax value of the business, as well

as an increase of thirty-three jobs, of which they have added nineteen already,” he said. “The amount that will come back is much more than we will be putting out. We need to support these things when we see a benefit

to the county.”

After some discussion of whether the company had committed to adding equipment as well as employees — and thus increasing the County tax base — the con-

(See “Commissioners,” p. 24)

Commissioners to meet in 7 Lakes August 15

The Moore County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting with the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council on Thursday, August 15.

The agenda for the meeting includes updates on planning issues, including appearance issues in West End, tighter zoning in the Seven Lakes Business Village, billboards on NC Highway 211, and the local response to fracking for natural gas.

Also on the agenda are questions about tax revaluations, coming up in 2015, and the recent redrawing of the County’s fire district lines.

The County’s drive to bring water to Seven Lakes from Harnett County is also likely to be addressed.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 5:00 pm in the Great Room of the Seven Lakes West Community Center.

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In memory of . . .

Alda Marie McCall Blue, 88, formerly of West End, died Saturday August 3.

She was born in Ellerbe, graduated from Ellerbe High School and King's Business College, Charlotte. She and her husband, John Calvin Blue celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on July 25.

Mrs. Blue was employed over the years at McDonald Brothers, Carolina Bank and First Bank in Seven Lakes. She and her husband most recently operated a successful blueberry business at their farm, BlueBerry Hill.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Hall and Letha Anderson McCall; her sisters Corinne Pusser, Edna Gaddy, Sadie Maurer and Louise McFall; brothers Clifton, James, Cecil and Bill McCall.

She is survived by her husband John Calvin Blue; daughter Joyce Blue Collins

of Pinehurst; son John Blue, Jr. of Asheville; grandsons Nelson Brock Collins and John Seth Collins and wife Lauren Scott Collins all of Charleston, SC; her great granddaughters; and her sister Reba Munn Birdsall of Winston Salem.

Funeral services were Wednesday August 7, at Boles Funeral Home Chapel, Southern Pines. The Rev. Jack Bowling officiated.

Memorial contributions be made to: The Moore County Public Library Book Mobile, PO Box 400, Carthage, NC 28327.

Kenneth Livingstone Engel, 52 of West End, died Monday, July 29, at his residence.

A memorial service was held Saturday, August 3, at Boles Funeral Home, Southern Pines.

Mr. Engel was born in Bethesda, MD son to Lester

and Brenda (Bovey) Engel. He served in the U.S. Army. He was an avid photographer. Mr. Engel was preceded in death by a brother, Wayne Engel.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Teresa B. Engel; daughter, Jennifer Battazzo Lasecki of Fayetteville; his parents, Lester and Brenda Engel, of Little Orleans, MD; and his sister, Rebecca Duvé of Frederick, MD.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Kenneth Engel to the Moore County Humane Society at 5355 N.C. 22, Carthage, NC 28327

Glenn Ronald Weber, 70, of Seven Lakes West, died after battling leukemia on Sunday, July 28 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Weber was born in Pas-

saic, New Jersey the son of the late Edward and Mary Weber.

He owned and successfully operated Greenwood Lake Marina, among other businesses in New Jersey for 25 years, before relocating to Seven Lakes with his wife Rosemary.

He was an avid car enthusiast, golfer, Shriner and 32nd degree Mason.

Survivors included his wife Rosemary; sons, Ronald, Ryan, Randy; daughter Suzanne Messer; grandchildren, Kaleigh, Camaryn, Danielle and Tyler; and his brother Eddie R. Weber, Jr.

A funeral mass was held Friday, August 2 at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst. Burial followed at Pinelawn Memorial Park.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Mr.

Weber to the: Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, PO Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Jo Ann Davidson Hutchens, 69, of Seven Lakes died Sunday, July 28, at the FirstHealth Hospice House, Pinehurst.

Mrs. Hutchens was a retired elementary school teacher in New Jersey, where she taught for 35 years. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date in New Jersey.

Surviving are her husband, Ray; daughter, Dee Ann; son, Raymond; sisters, Sharon and Janet; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to either the RV Athletic Hall

(Continued on page 7)

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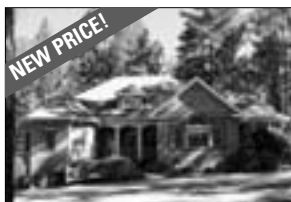


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**169 Lanchshire
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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 6)

of Fame (in care of Tony Lotierzo) or the RV Educational Foundation (in care of Deb Hauth), 520 Jacksonville Road, Mount Holly, NJ 08060.

Charles R. Hinson, 82, of West End, died Friday, July 26, at FirstHealth Moore

Regional Hospital.

A memorial service was held Monday, July 29, at West End United Methodist Church conducted by the Rev. Dr. Won S. Namkoong. Masonic graveside services followed in the West End Cemetery.

Mr. Hinson was born in Stanly County son to James

Hinson and Etta Comer Hinson. He was a retired self-employed carpenter and was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the American Legion, a member of West End United Methodist Church and of Alberta Lodge No. 454 AF and AM.

He was preceded in death

by a grandchild, Kimberly Dawn Bowles.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Reynolds Hinson, of the home; son, Timothy R. Hinson, of West End; daughter, Cynthia Dixon of Kinston; brothers, Hubert Hinson of Jackson Springs, and Phillip Hinson of Rockingham; sister,

Alene Reeder of Seagrove; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to West End United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 276, West End, NC 27376 or the Masonic Home For Children, 600 College Street, Oxford, NC 27565.

New Doctor in Seven Lakes

Helen Mantila, M.D., says she has two passions in life: being a mother and being a physician.

"They're both hard jobs, but the most rewarding ones I could imagine," she says.

medical student classes.

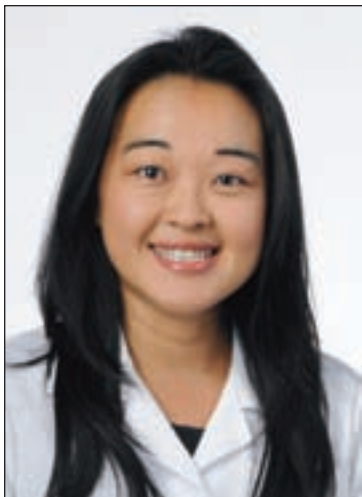
She takes pride in being a family doctor and having the privilege of providing health care to entire families.

Dr. Mantila, her husband and their children make their home in Seven Lakes.

"I love being a part of this

community," she says, "and I look forward to working with the families here on their health and wellness."

The FirstHealth Family Care Center-Seven Lakes is located at 1035-C Seven Lakes Drive in Seven Lakes.



Dr. Helen Mantila

This mother of three joined FirstHealth of the Carolinas last year as a primary care physician in Richmond County. On July 8, she moved to the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Seven Lakes, joining a family medicine practice that also includes Dan Matthews, P.A.-C, and Amanda Martin, ANP.

Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Mantila earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University in Indiana and her medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine.

She was elected chief resident during her residency at the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) and later spent five years as a UCSD faculty member, caring for patients, mentoring resident doctors and teaching



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A Seven Lakes original opens dance studio

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Lisa Mace first drew up the plans for her dance studio when she was ten years old. It was three stories tall, with its own auditorium for recitals and shows; and it sat right in the middle of Seven Lakes Business Village.

So, to call the opening of L Mace Studios a homecoming is a bit of an understatement, even if the former Master Kleen building on Grant Street isn't quite three stories tall.

"It's always been my plan to open a studio in Seven Lakes," said Mace, who has been dancing since she was a three-year-old toddler. Mace is one of those rarest of species: a native Seven Laker, born the same year her parents, Gail and Kenny Mace, started their electrical business and built their new home.

"I always knew this is where I wanted to end up," Lisa told *The Times*.

Building the background

Mace graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance Performance, concentrating in Jazz. And she is certified in Tap, Jazz, and Acrobatics by DanceMasters of America, a professional organization.

As an aspiring dancer, Mace found an outlet for her talent in pageant competition, starting at six, winning the local title of Miss Noel.

She was named Young Miss

North Carolina in 2005, Miss Moore County in 2005, Miss Goldsboro in 2008, and was a top five finalist for Miss North Carolina in 2009.

Along the way, often as not, Mace walked away with the top talent awards in those and other pageant competitions.

As if that wasn't a busy-

enough schedule, Mace was also a member of the Pinecrest High School cheer-leading squad.

Putting talent to work

Mace's varied experience as a dancer will find expression in the curriculum at L Mace Studios, where she plans to offer the full range

of dance instruction, including tap, ballet, hip hop, acrobatics, and cheer dance. And she plans classes for all ages, including "kinderdance" for three and four year olds, as well as classes for adults.

"I already have eight adults signed up!" Mace told *The Times*.

For those who think dance is just for girls, Mace plans to break that stereotype with a hip-hop class just for boys.

"One of the reasons boys don't get involved is they think it is too girly," Mace said. "They don't think of Gene Kelly, but little girls in tutus. Some of the most amazing dancers I have ever seen in my life have been male. I am hoping an all-boys class will give them more of an incentive to come."

Those tutus are important,

however. Mace explains that ballet provides a critical foundation for a dancer.

"First and foremost — all dancers should understand that ballet is the foundation

(See "L Mace," p. 13)



Lisa Mace



Lisa Mace

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Young Foxfire siblings are winning triathletes

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Swimming laps is just the warm up for Molly Kuzma and her little brother Charlie. They still have to bike and run to the finish line. Triathlons are no longer a tough guy's sport. Molly is only a few days shy of her tenth birthday, but she has been running forever.

"I can't keep up with her," Molly's mother Christine said. "I am going to try and run a 5k with her." The Run for their Lives in Sanford raises money for Carolina Animal Care and Rescue.

Molly's interest in competition has energized the whole family; her dad Charlie, Sr., a FirstHealth hematologist-oncologist, runs with her in the longer races. But swimming is Molly's favorite sport. She is dedicated, and hopes to compete in the Olympics one day.

The Kuzma's relocated back to North Carolina to be near Christine's family. Molly misses her home state, California, where it seemed everybody had a pool.

"It was sunny all year long and it wasn't ever cold," Molly said. It is the perfect weather for swimming year round.

It wasn't long after moving to Foxfire that Christine saw

a flier advertising the AC Sandhills Lakers Tri-Club. It has been a great way for Molly to make friends. The meets bring children together from all over the state.

Molly trains in swimming with P.A.S.T., the Pinehurst Area Swim Team. Both teams

train in Seven Lakes North.

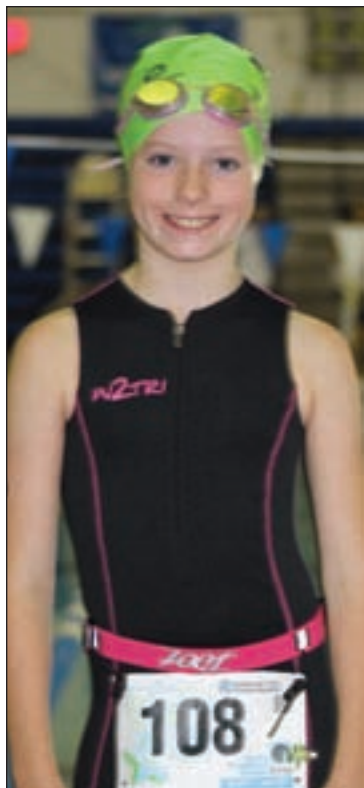
She just made the cut, in the fourteen and under division, at the NC Swimming Championship in the 100 yard Butterfly with the time of 1.35 minutes. She also runs a quick mile at 7.16 (See "Triathlon," p. 14)



Triathlon has become a family passion for Molly Kuzma and her brother Charlie.



Charlie in hot competition on the cycling leg of a triathlon



Molly Kuzma



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Zahra: Navigating cultures with a steady hand

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Under the last golden rays of sun, Zahra studies her tan. In only a few weeks she has learned to swim, cutting a seamless brown ribbon through the blue water.

"In Afghanistan, pale skin is considered beautiful," Zahra says. "In Afghanistan, swimming pools are only for boys."

"Zahra," in Persian, means "sparklingly bright." And Zahra's name speaks the truth.

At the American University of Afghanistan she has, at times, challenged her place as a woman in her culture. As the only female on the Afghan Taekwondo National team, she might be bound for the 2016 Olympics. It might be safer for Zahra if she dimmed her light, hid her tan, and took refuge under her head scarf.

Zahra speaks with ease before an attentive audience at the Moore County Chamber of Commerce. She is explaining the mission of Solace for the Children, building peace on a foundation of health by establishing international partnerships providing medical care, education, and leadership development for the children of war-torn countries. Currently, Solace directs its services to the children of Afghanistan.

She clicks through slides of children caught in the crossfire of war. Some children are scarred, burned, and blinded. Others have congenital birth defects and illnesses that can not be corrected in their country.

Zahra knows each child personally and speaks of each with great affection.

"The children we help are from different tribes," she says. "They do not care who is who. Some of the parents are very religious, but they want their child to have medical care. They are thankful and happy that their children are helped. They say good things about Solace and about America."

Zahra seems unaware that

she herself is a child of war. Her Afghani parents moved to Iran more than twenty years ago to be safe from the conflict in their own country. Zahra's mother died when she was three.

"I was the youngest, and in many ways on my own," she explains. "I didn't have a mother to tell me things."

"I know racism from a very young age," Zahra tells the Chamber audience. "I went

to school in Iran when I was seven. I was a favorite of my teachers. I worked very hard and was the top student."

"For three or four years, I would win a schoolwide math contest. I was so surprised the first time I won. Instead of handing the award to me they gave it to the second place winner. I was Afghani, and awards only were given to Iranian students."

"The first time it happened I hurt so bad. I knew in my heart that this is racism. But I was just a student; I could do nothing."

Zahra's father is forever begging her to wear her headscarf correctly. Like any parent he is worried about her.

Zahra is twenty; and, like most young adults, she is independent-minded. She is engaged to a young man that she loves. He just happens to be from another tribe. It has been hard for their families to accept their commitment.

"When my father moved us back to Afghanistan I would get in trouble at school," Zahra says. "They

(See "Zahra," p. 12)



Zahra with Nargis, one of the children she accompanied to the US for medical treatment.




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SLLA & Club working on new covenant

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association (SLLA) and the Seven Lakes Country Club are in the process of negotiating new covenants that aim to protect the golf course from development as anything other than a golf course or open space.

The lengthy closed-door negotiations have left the SLLA Board with little new information to report.

During the Association's Wednesday, July 31 Open Meeting, Southside resident and former SLLA Director Donna Stephan expressed her concern over the lack of information.

"We moved here twenty-three years ago," Stephan said during the Public Comment segment of the meeting. "I have attended most board meetings and work sessions. I served on the board. When I was on it we were in the position where the country club had to make up a covenant. I have been attending both work sessions and open sessions, and it is as if I don't live here. There is no South Side. I commend everything you are doing for the dam and lakes. We [on the South Side] don't have dams or lakes. However, we

do have the Country Club."

"I am asking one favor of you," Stephan said. "You know what is going on between yourselves and the Country Club. You know if we are going to come to an agreement. I don't. What happens to the Country Club affects every one of us."

"Would you please let us know every month where we are with the Country Club, and if our attorney is not doing his job, or if their attorney is not doing his job? I just don't wake up one morning and find out that we are in deep doo doo."

Ritter responds

Even though it was not on an item on the meeting agenda, President Steve Ritter shared with the Board and residents information he had received just a few hours before.

"I will address it briefly," Ritter said. "I met this after-

noon with the Country Club attorney, who is working on all of the changes to covenant that the board here has asked for. Their attorney will be contacting our attorney very shortly to work out the wording for the final covenant."

Stephan asked whether the new covenant would prevent the golf course property from being developed for residential purposes.

Ritter reported, "That's in the old covenant. It will be removed from the new covenant and written up to make sure the property is a county club or open space for at least fifty years."

Stephan laughed and said, "That's fine. I won't be here in fifty years." She then thanked Ritter for his report.

"When I was leaving my house today," she added, "knowing I was going to make a statement tonight, I didn't mind if it made it the paper. We all recognize that the

lakes are the heart of the North Side. The South Side golf course is every bit as important."

"The health of our Country Club does affect us all. That is just the way it is. You cannot subtract one from another. You have to be vigilant with something like this. There are two country clubs in Seven Lakes. At some point, one is not going to make it. There are just not enough numbers to support two. I want our Country Club to be the one that makes it."

Board rescinds no wake policy for high water

Acting on Board authorization, SLLA Management has a number of times this Summer imposed a lake-wide no wake zone on Lake Sequoia and Lake Echo, in

order to prevent wakes from damaging waterfront docks and bulkheads.

But, after considerable discussion, the Lakes and Dam Committee was unable to arrive at a hard and fast rule for when a no wake zone should be imposed. The Committee consulted with engineers to be assured that the high water levels and wake action caused no damage to the dams.

During the July 31 Open Meeting the Board took up the idea of eliminating the no wake zone policy.

Director Bob Darr worried that lake front property would continue to be eroded. Questioning the recommendation of the Lakes and Dams Committee Darr asked, "Then we just forget it and let it hap-

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

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Zahra

(Continued from page 10)

would ask, 'Why are you talking to that student? They are this tribe.' I didn't know. I couldn't see tribes, because I wasn't born there. They could tell different tribes by eyes."

"For us to have peace, we must know that we are all the same," she says.

Zahra wants what every young adult wants to do, to make a difference. She, her fiancé, and her friends have worked to create a resource center for children. They have transformed a rock hovel with a dirt floor into a crisp white and green learning lab. In the midst of bombings and war, their spirits have remained unscathed.

The very girl that might be criticized for wearing her scarf incorrectly is an angel of deliverance to the most vulnerable of children. She is an unpaid volunteer. Zahra explains to each child the medical treatments they will face. She sits and comforts children in recovery after major surgeries. She fields calls and troubleshoots language barriers between host parents and Afghani children.

She explains that eight-year-old Ajmal isn't being obstinate when he refuses to go to bed. He won't go because he is afraid of the thunder and lightening. She sleeps very little and works on a shoe string budget. She is at the whim of the host parents' schedules and is reliant on others for transportation.

It is 4:30 am, and she is going on less than three

hours sleep. She guides six children into the airport. She manages everything well: the booking agent not being able to print off two of the boarding passes, a child's lost identification tag, a misplaced authorization letter and seven fifty pound suitcases filled with medical supplies, winter clothing, snacks, and gifts.

She allows her self a second of doubt and says quietly, "I am so nervous. This is impossible. I am so tired."

She will fly from Raleigh to JFK. When she arrives at JFK she must meet two other children, go through security a second time, and board the plane to Dubai. In Dubai, after a very rough flight and landing, she must locate and claim nine pieces of luggage for the sixteen hour layover, budget for and purchase eight children's meals, make pallets on the floor for the children to sleep on, and administer medication. After the layover,

she must then check all of their luggage, reboard, and fly to Kabul.

Upon arrival she writes, "Yea! I am home and we got everything in place. But I feel so sick. I am not fine. It is because of not having enough sleep and stress."

Zahra has done the impossible. Her journey is far from over; but, for now, she will sleep in darkness. Her dreams of peace and equality are meant for the light of day.

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L Mace Studios

(Continued from page 8)

and fundamentals of dance," she explained. "It's where you find your center, your core strength, your balance."

Each type of dance has its own purpose and attraction.

"Jazz is a more fun version of ballet," Mace said. "Tap helps build the rhythm and musicality. Acrobatics is more like tumbling: using power tricks, contortions, and tumbling to build flexibility."

A year-long effort

The schedule at L Mace Studios will track with the school year.

"We start the last week of August — the week after kids start school," Mace said. "The whole first semester is spent learning technique. After Christmas we work on recital dances for a recital at the end of May or in early June."

For those who aren't quite sure where to begin, Mace offers to let anyone try a first class for free. "I don't want a parent to pay for tap for a month, and their child takes her first tap class and hates it," she explained. "I welcome anyone to come and try it out."

In addition to group classes, Mace will offer private lessons and choreography, as well as pageant prep, including modeling, interview, and talent preparation.

And Mace won't be the studio's only teacher. a wide range of contacts in the dance world, statewide and nationwide, will allow her to draw on a roster of guest artists.

"It is healthy for someone to not have the same teacher all the time," Mace explained. "It's so important for more serious dancers to learn from as many artists as possible. It will make them more well-rounded, and a more flexible dancer, because they have worked with a variety of folks."

The regular faculty of the studio includes Laura Givens, a classically trained ballet instructor, and Shanon Shepherd Venable, who will offer "Music Together," a research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that introduces parents and their

children from birth to kindergarten to rhythm, melody, and harmony.

Taking dance seriously

Dance is Mace's life, and, as you might expect, she takes it very seriously.

"I am definitely a serious teacher," she told *The Times*. "Dance class is not a place just to hang out, not a daycare. I expect when the kids come in that they need to have mutual respect. They need to behave."

"I find that often kids can relate to me, because I am younger. They seem to appreciate the way I explain

things."

"What makes me stand out as a teacher is my history and my training," Mace said.

"I am fortunate to have parents that gave me the best dance training in their power."

"We're going to push them," she says of her students. "You are going to be challenged, you are going to grow every year."

"This is what I am passionate about, this is what I love. You have to build the next generation."

"I was there one day — I was that little girl in Seven Lakes who needed a dream.

I hope to be able to instill that and give that to other kids."

Get in touch

L Mace Studio is located at 117 Grant Street, in the former Master Kleen building, in the Seven Lakes Business

Village. The phone number is (910) 690-4520.

A full schedule of classes is available on the website at lmacstudios.com, including some Summer classes for those who want to get started early or brush up on their skills.

Tutors Needed

The Moore County Literacy Council is in need of tutors for their site at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Seven Lakes. Tutors provide one-on-one tutoring for adults who are learning to read, read better and/or speak English. Sessions are held in Seven Lakes on Tuesday evenings between 5 to 7 pm. Interested? Please call Pam or Marian at 692-5954.

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Triathlon

(Continued from page 9)
minutes.

Molly recently dove into Lake Echo and came in 12th in the 800 meter for the ten

and under division, at the NC Open Water Meet.

"I like pool water the best," Molly says. "I don't like the fish. I don't know why, but

I'm scared of them."

Brother Charlie prefers the bike. "It's easier," he says. "Swimming, you go slower in the water. But on your

bike you get to go fast."

How does a triathlete wind down after a competition? "I like Cracker Barrel's Macaroni and Cheese and a piece

of fudge cake," Molly said. It's necessary fuel for her next goal: a half-Iron-Man triathlon. Her parents might need to pick up the pace.

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<p>124 SHAW DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>WATERVIEW!</p> <p>CLOSE TO MARINA! – \$245,000</p>	<p>135 E DEVONSHIRE • 7LW</p> <p>MUST SEE!</p> <p>3BD+2 BA, MANY UPGRADES – \$245,000</p>	<p>106 SIMMONS • 7LW</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED!</p> <p>4BD+BONUS, CLOSE TO MARINA – \$339,000</p>	<p>113 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>4 BED + BONUS! – \$275,000</p>	<p>138 WINSFORD CIRCLE • 7LS</p> <p>3/2 GOLF & LAKEFRONT – \$189,900</p>
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Water

(Continued from page 4)

a day at a reduced rate. The County also plans to drill three wells on Linden Road.

Gould is working against the clock to meet a tight deadline to submit an application for zero percent interest financing through the State Revolving Fund of the NC Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NC-DENR).

Moore County's proposal to serve Foxfire Village would involve laying a twelve-inch water main down Foxfire Road, cross under Hoffman Road and jog over to the Foxfire water tank.

Gould would like to add the estimated \$1.1 million cost of that project to the County's larger financing application. Hence, the need to move quickly.

Challenges for the Foxfire System

Gould provided the County's perspective on why the merger makes sense for Foxfire.

The Village already has

high levels of radium in some of its six active wells; the radium concentration is reduced by blending the output of those wells with water from other wells.

"Radium is a key concern in ground water," Gould said. "It generates from rock and is basically in the ground. Some wells have high levels and some do not."

"There have been twenty-two radium violations since 2008 in Foxfire," Gould continued. "Blending is required, and some are at the regulatory limit."

Looking at the future demand for water in the Village, Gould said it is expected to increase by roughly one-third by 2040.

"In 2011, the average day's demand equal 76,000 gallons," Gould said. "In 2040, the average day usage is estimated at 105,000 gallons."

The County is well-positioned to help meet that demand, given its plan to drill three new wells along Linden Road.

"The three wells are strate-

gically located to help serve Foxfire as well," Gould said.

The Proposal

Gould laid out the basic parameters of the proposal:

- Moore County will pay for the construction of a water supply main to the Foxfire Village elevated tank.
- Moore County will absorb the existing debt owed by Foxfire Village and has the right to refinance.
- Moore County will take ownership of the elevated tank and distribution system, but not the wells or well sites.
- Moore County will operate the existing wells until the construction of the new facilities is complete.
- Foxfire will be required to abandon the wells at their own cost.

- Until cost of connecting Foxfire the County water system is recouped, Foxfire water rates will remain as is at current levels — which are higher than rates paid by other County customers. If the County raises rates for all its customers, Foxfire rates will increase by the same amount.
- Upon repayment of the County's construction loan, the Foxfire Village rates will become the same as the Moore County's customer rates.
- Foxfire will keep current retained earnings in the water fund.

Gould made it clear that the County would continue negotiating with Foxfire if the August deadline were not met. But, the chance to take advantage of zero-interest

financing might be lost, increasing the length of time that Villagers would have to pay water rates higher than those paid by other county customers.

A Skeptical Public Responds

Village residents expressed doubts about the wisdom of turning over their water system. Concerns ranged from the loss of future revenue to disagreements about current levels of radium.

One of the most vocal opponents of the proposal was former Councilman Ed Lauer, who once had responsibility for the Village Water system.

Referring to the Hydrostructures studies, Lauer said, "The water study that they are citing is the one that I

(See "Water," p. 18)

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Dr. Mantila is board certified in Family Medicine and speaks English and Vietnamese. She takes pride in being a family doctor and having the privilege of providing health care to the entire family. Dr. Mantila, her husband and their three children make their home in Seven Lakes.

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- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Mud**, starring: Matthew McConaughey, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. (Two teenage boys encounter a fugitive and form a pact to help him evade the bounty hunters on his trail and to reunite him with his true love.) Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Memorial Fishing Tournament** – dedication in the park starts at 9:30 am. Fishing starts at 10 am until 4 pm, this tournament is held in honor the late Rick Rhyne. The Fishing Tournament is on Lake McKenzie at Foxfire. This event is for ages 3 to 16 years. Rods available or bring your own. Displays, prizes, and lunch for kids. Bait is furnished. Experience the NC Wildlife Sensory Trailer and Mobile Aquarium. For more information contact The Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills, 910-692-0777.
- **Town Creek Indian Mound** – Play in the Clay Day, 10 am to 4 pm. Play in a medium that's as old as dirt. See how the Pee Dee Culture utilized the clay around them and you can try your hand at making a small piece of pottery, help daub the East Lodge walls, and witness the role "red earth" plays in building dugout canoes. Artists will be on hand selling their wares. Free. Town Creek Indian Mound, 509 Town

Creek Mound Rd., Mt. Gilead (910) 439-6802.

- **2nd Saturday at the Poe House** – 11 am to 4 pm, Celebrate history, heritage and the



What's When Calendar

Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Caribbean Beach Party at Seven Lakes Country Club** –

Cocktails at 5:30; buffet dinner, 6:30; entertainment by Chad Sain

7:30 pm to 10 pm. Call 673-1100.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Mud**, starring: Matthew McConaughey, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Weird and Wild** – 3 pm, Have you ever heard of a zombie virus that takes over a caterpillar's body and turns it into goo? Come discover some of nature's strangest secrets. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills

Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Jackson Springs Community Club meeting** – 7 pm at the Club House, 447 Mill Road. A covered dish dinner. Guests and interested members are invited to attend the meeting. Guest speaker Darrell Hagan, professional trainer of K-9 Dogs. The dogs are used by the military and their training facility in Derby. For questions and dinner reservations, Susan Miller 910-639-5267.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – meeting at 7 pm, The Hannah Center Theater on The O'Neal School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. August meeting will be a member competition titled, "Win-

dows and Doors." Hunter Ruud, a club member will be the judge. Guests are welcome to join the meeting. www.sandhillsphoto-club.org

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting. at Foxfire Village Hall.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **"Universalism: Do All Paths Lead to God?"** – 7 - 8:30 pm, Hendrik (Hank) Hanegraaff, president and chairman of the board of the North Carolina-based Christian Research Institute, will be the guest speaker. Christ Community Church series addressing the topic, "Culture Con-

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fronts Christianity." 220 Campground Road, just off of Highway 15/501 910.215.8099

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – Classic movie night: *The French Connection* 7:30 pm, starring: Gene Hackman & Fernando Rey. Tickets: \$5. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring: Amy Acker & Alexis Denisof. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** –

7:30 pm, *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring: Amy Acker & Alexis Denisof. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring: Amy Acker & Alexis Denisof. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Hoppers, Climbers, & Swimmers** – 3 pm, Ever curious about all the sounds you hear from all the frogs and toads that call on a summer's evening? Join a ranger in the auditorium to learn how many amphibians there are in the area. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary

Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Much Ado About Nothing*, starring: Amy Acker & Alexis Denisof. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Aging in Place: Is Your Home Suitable?** – 6 pm to 7 pm. Free workshop for family caregivers of seniors held at Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive. Speaker Barbara Stender, Caregiver Specialist. Refreshments. Call 673-2230 or 673-2045.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-

5150. Seven Lakes.

- **“Democratic Pluralism: Constitutional vs. Traditional Values?”** – 7 to 8:30 pm, Kevin Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Law, Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University, Raleigh will be the guest speaker. Christ Community Church 220 Campground Road. 910.215.8099

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (wid-

ows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal \$5.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Unfinished Song*, starring: Terence Stamp & Vanessa Redgrave.

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Water

(Continued from page 15)

had conducted. The study was made under the assumption of continued escalated growth. We had over 200 homes built in two years. After it [the pace of construction] went down, it was determined we could survive for 15 or 20 more years with our current system."

"First of all, let's make it clear," Lauer said. "The people of Foxfire are still going to pay \$1.2 million to run that line up the road. The point is: you will be an unequal partner in this town's deal."

Trading Debt for Debt?

Under Gould's proposal, the County would assume the Foxfire Village Water Department's current debt. But Lauer argued that the Water Fund has reserves on hand that could pay off that debt.

"The water department is an enterprise. It operates off its funds just like a business,"

Lauer said. "Those loans were incurred as operating expenses. The water department has never had a problem making its payment. The funds are sitting there that have accumulated, and we have it in our coffers. That money is a false debt, and I wanted to return it on number of occasions."

The Village currently has money in an account reserved for the drilling of a new well. Foxfire would retain that money if they voted to sell their water system.

"We are exchanging a short term debt for a twenty year debt," Lauer said. "If the County rates increase, then we are going to get that increase. You are going to pay — we are going to pay — for the next twenty years. I will guarantee the County is going to offer the water [to other customers] up that line. They are going to get customers and profit from it."

A Profitable Enterprise

Currently, the Foxfire Water Department turns a profit each month. A percentage of the money goes to pay administrative costs and a portion of the salaries and benefits of the Villages staff.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco explained one disadvantage of letting go of the water system: "the loss of revenue that presently supports the general fund's operation budget."

"A portion of their [Village employees'] salaries and benefits package are allocated to the water department," she added. "I am estimating those costs are around \$35,000 to \$37,000 each year. The council would have to decide and investigate the employee situation, salary and benefits package, or if there are other ways to cut costs. That is an issue that council needs to address."

Another disadvantage in

the merger would be an increase in tap on fees. Currently, the Village charges \$1,450 per tap, while the County charges \$1,950.

On the Money

Resident Mary Gilroy questioned the wisdom of making a quick decision.

"This project is being driven by the date, not the project," she said. "The financing is driving the project, and that changes things. When you do things in a hurry and are talking big bucks, things can happen. Once you've signed on the line you are in. Are we okay with what is in this contract?"

Previous work by the Long Range Planning Committee is what makes the option possible, Gould reassured Gilroy: "The only reason we can do this, is that the line has already been designed. If Foxfire doesn't meet the deadline, everything will hap-

pen except that line coming out to Foxfire."

Commissioner Larry Caddell noted that adding the Foxfire project to the County's overall funding application would increase the chances of receiving the zero interest loan.

"We are trying to improve our twenty year plan. It looks better," Caddell said.

Tardy to the Lectern

"I haven't been paying any attention to this until I came tonight," resident Guy Packet confessed before questioning the Council.

"Why would we walk away from infrastructure that we built, paid for, and go in debt for almost \$2 million?" he asked. "I realize it's a headache to manage our own water system, but why is it necessary to change it now? Once you go down this path, how do you get back? Why

(See "Water," p. 19)



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Water

(Continued from page 18)

are we interested in spending — just to try and save what?”

“There were two water assessments that said we need to find a new well,” Councilman Mick McCue answered. “We don’t have any property and don’t have any guarantee, if we dig a well, there will be water.”

The Village has, in fact,

invested in the drilling of several unsuccessful wells in the past decade.

Packet replied, “There is not a guarantee other than we sign on and pay a million bucks. I don’t like the idea.”

Minority Dissent

The Long Range Planning Committee was not unanimous in its support of a

merger with the County. Committee member Mary Anne Lauer said: “This came out of committee, but it was not a unanimous vote to go along with this. It wasn’t even seven to one. This started out as a mandate to study the water coming from one of the surveys we took.”

Lauer addressed the positives of the Village retaining

ownership. “The water has always been valuable asset to us. The water system was modernized not very long

ago. It helps pay salaries including the one water department’s employee that we have.”

Fracking water

(Continued from page 4)

uses a tremendous amount water. According to Van Roosen, if all goes as planned, GES will run a waterline up through the middle of Moore County. The main business will be supplying water for fracking, with a side business of selling drinking water.

Van Roosen, as a member of the Village of Pinehurst’s Water Committee, was involved in an earlier attempt to bring water from Wagram to Moore County.

“We were in the process of finalizing a project with Pinehurst several years ago, with due diligence to bring water in from Wagram,” Van Roosen said, but it turned out one municipality cannot sell water to another.”

Speaking of his time on

the Pinehurst Water Committee, he added: “I suffered on that water committee for twelve years. Not because I like to hear problems, but rather be part of the solution. I have a good deal with experience including reverse osmosis and oxidation.”

“By virtue of having reasonable people up in Raleigh right now we can make this happen,” Van Roosen told *The Times*. “Charlie Holbrook has dedicated his life to conservation and the environment. [Holbrook, also of Pinehurst, is member of the state’s Mining and Energy Commission, which is drafting rules to regulate fracking.] The technology will benefit from mistakes that have been made. A lot of difficulty we have found in the early stages

won’t be repeated.”

Van Roosen stressed that GES’s first priority is fracking. That process typically involves adding small amounts of highly toxic chemicals to the water prior to pumping it into the ground. It was not clear whether or where GES would be treating the Wagram water in order to make it fit for human consumption.

Inadvertently, Van Roosen made mention of Thrush’s name. When Thrush was asked if he had any comment, he promptly replied that he did not want his name in the paper.

Men’s Bowling League

As bowlers prepare for the next season, the Seven Lakes Men’s League is looking for current and additional bowlers. The organizational planning meeting will be held at the Seven Lakes North Club House Game Room at 7 pm on Thursday, August 15.

The season will start Thursday mornings, at either 10 am or 11 am, on Thursday, September 5 and end on December 19.

Teams will be formed soon and if you are interested in joining the men’s bowling league, contact Ed Nuti. Current and new bowlers can call him at 673-7565 or email at cenuti@nc.rr.com

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Seven Lakes Dance racks up the trophies

Seven Lakes Dance attended the 35th annual Showstoppers Talent Competition Nationals in Myrtle Beach, July 1 – July 4.

The studio competed against dozens of dance studios from across the United States for prestigious top honors. Seven Lakes Dance competition teams brought twenty-four dances to compete at Nationals in genres

including tap, jazz, hip hop and lyrical with many dances incorporating tumbling.

Solo dancers Kennedy Cross, Alexa Giovanni competed against 54 junior solo entries. Both Kennedy and Alexa received gold awards and places 19th and 18th Overall. Kate Morris performed her jazz dance in the teen solo division competing against 58 other teen soloists.

She received a double platinum, which is the highest award given, as well as placing 5th Overall.

Mary Kathryn Hurst and Briana Goodwin competed in the senior solo division against 46 other senior soloists. Mary Kathryn was awarded a platinum award and placed 13th Overall. Briana received a prestigious double platinum award as well as receiving 3rd Place

Overall out of all 46 senior soloists.

Duet partners Lacy McNeill and Gracie Vest performed their lyrical duet receiving a gold award, as well as 6th Place Overall. Caroline Hilliard and Zoe Richardson were awarded a gold awarded and 9th place Overall for their jazz duet. Kate Morris and Samantha Laurita competed with their lyrical duet which received the highest

award, a double platinum, and winning 5th place Overall. Briana Goodwin and Kate Morris were also awarded the prestigious double platinum award. They also won 1st Place Overall as well as receiving the highest score of all advance numbers for the entire Showstopper Nationals week.

Melody Moreton, Kennedy Cauthen and Allie Biondi

(Continued on page 21)



Ashley LaFell, Carly Veit and Briana Goodwin ranked first overall in the Trio Competition.



The Large Group troupe from Seven Lakes Dance

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at Showstoppers Nationals in Myrtle Beach

(Continued from page 20)

performed their jazz and tap numbers in the mini duet/trio division. Both numbers received gold awards with their tap trio placing 9th Overall. Trio members Briana Goodwin, Carly Veit and Ashley LaFell won the highest award, a double platinum, as well receiving the prestigious 1st Overall ranking.

Small group members Gracie Vest, Lacy McNeill, Melayna King, Ainslee Wolters, Jennifer Ryder, Emma Elliott, Abigail Veit, Raegan Deaton, and Meaghan Ayala received a platinum award for their jazz number, along with 7th Place Overall ranking. They also received the prestigious

double platinum ranking for their hip hop number and placed 2nd Overall out of more than 45 numbers in the petite small group division.

Alexa Giovanni, Kennedy Cross, Caroline Hilliard and Zoe Richardson won platinum awards for both their tap and jazz numbers, as well as 7th place Overall and 4th place Overall in the Junior small group division. Lindsay Douglass, Sydney Hawkins, Reilly Stromberg and Maggie Anderson were awarded platinum awards for both their jazz and tap numbers, as well as 10th place and 7th place Overall. Mary Kathryn Hurst, Kirsten Alvarez, Meghan Quinlan, Maria Goudy,

Amanda Gosline, Chrissy Boals and Caroline O'Connor received a Platinum award as well as 7th place Overall in the senior small group division for their tap number. Briana Goodwin, Kate Morris, Samantha Laurita, Amy Hinds, Carly Veit and Ashley LaFell were awarded a Platinum award for their jazz number and Double Platinum awards for their tap and hip

hop numbers in the teen small group division. These girls received 12th place Overall for their jazz number, 7th place Overall for their hip hop number and the prestigious 1st place Overall for their tap number.

Large group performers Sarah Sayce, Brooke LaFell, Mary Kathryn Hurst, Kirsten Alvarez, Meghan Quinlan, Maria Goudy, Amanda

Gosline, Chrissy Boals, Caroline O'Connor, Briana Goodwin, Kate Morris, Samantha Laurita, Amy Hinds, Carly Veit and Ashley LaFell received Double Platinum awards for both their large group hip hop and acapella tap numbers. They were also awarded 4th and 2nd place Overall

Seven Lakes Dance is now
(See "Dance," p. 24)



Briana Goodwin and Kate Morris with Seven Lakes Dance instructors



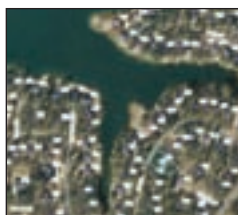
Seven Lakes Dance's Intermediate competition team.

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Disco in Seattle

Last week, I was honored to be invited to Seattle to take part in a wedding of one of the graduate students from our church. About twenty people from North Carolina went out for the wedding, and we had a great time.

While in Seattle we enjoyed many of the wonderful things that Seattle and the surrounding area have to offer, including whale watching. The highlight for my family was a hike up Mt. Rainier. I have been to Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon; and I have to say that Mt. Rainier was just as breathtaking as each of those. Ok, enough of the Seattle commercial.

One day, we decided to go into Seattle to see what the city had to offer. Near day's end, my wife and some of

the girls went shopping. My boys went to one store, other families went on tours, and I was left alone on the street.

Please don't feel badly, because I am perfectly content to be by myself.

I thought even though the streets

were filled with people, I have the city to myself. I started walking around, enjoying the sights and sounds.

As I was walking, I saw ahead an interesting vehicle, sort of a boat-bus. They do these tours called "duck boat" tours. It is an entertaining tour that tries to get everyone pumped up and laughing as

they tour the city both by water and land.

So, I am walking along all by myself, minding my own



business, when I noticed that the duck boat was trying to get the people on the sidewalks to dance or sing or something. I began thinking to myself, no one in Seattle knows who I am, these people are just looking for a laugh.

All of a sudden, I hear the song "Staying Alive" by the Bee Gee's playing over the

loud speaker. Without hesitation, I summoned my inner John Travolta, stopped in the middle of the sidewalk, threw my hand up in the air pointing my finger to the sky and then down to the ground on the opposite side.

The people on the duck boat cheered with encouragement. I began to strut to the rhythm of the song and the cheering of the crowd, confident that I was alone in the city, aware that no one who knows me would ever know what I did.

All of a sudden I hear my name called out from the crowd that was gathering behind me. A chill ran down my spine. I was like a kid caught with his hand in the cookie jar. One of the families who came with us to Seattle

for the wedding was right behind me. If they thought that my dance moves were good strutting to the Bee Gees, they must have really thought that they were good when I began to try to dance out of my predicament.

It reminded me that no matter what you do, someone is always watching. I always tell people that character is what you do when no one is looking.

Make sure that you are always aware that someone is watching. It may be your kids or someone else, if you always conduct yourself in a manner that is above reproach then you have nothing to worry about.

Teasing me, my friends said that they saw my true character, and they were afraid!

Expanding the stable herd? Whoa, Nellie!

This column is in response to the July 26 *Seven Lakes Times* article, "Board debates adding horses to stable herd." To the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board, Ray Sohl, and Kate Pennington, I have one word: "Whoa!"

Wasn't it just in the last issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* that the landowners learned that the board approved for jumping lessons

to be offered, taking Association horses off property for shows, and that the barn be "divided" into "Show" and Trail & Pony rides.

Where is the money coming from to have Pennington to only deal with the "show" clients and to have two full time employees to oversee trail & pony rides? The budget was already passed by the time this was approved.

There are not enough trail & pony rides to justify two full time employees. What will Pennington do when her clients go back to school? What will we be paying Pennington to do then?

Just because the trail rides "doubled" in one month does not a trend make. For this to happen, 45 riders would have had to ride daily in that time. That is not

physically possible, given the hours of operation and that we had so much rain.

Pennington has already misled the Board when she, with the help of Bob Darr, told them that she would be participating in the 4-H competition. Darr sponsored the young lady who showed.

As reported in the May 17, 2013 issue of *The Seven Lakes Times*; "Board members recently approved the

one-time use of Association horses to attend a horse show at the request of Stables Manager, Kate Pennington. However, when that approval was given, the Directors did not realize that Pennington's young students, not the man-

Some of the lessons are bartered for stable chores. The Association is paying an employee to do the stable chores. Every time a bartered lesson is given, the Association is in the negative.

If Ms. Pennington wants to be treated as a "show manager," then let the Association charge her clients accordingly.

- Monthly charge of \$700 per client
 - Includes 2 lessons/week. No bartering.
 - Additional lessons may be purchased at \$35 ea.
 - Insurance costs for horses taken off property will be divided by the number of clients using each horse.
 - Each time horses are taken off property, mileage and day fees will apply — to be determined by the Association.
 - All monies will be paid directly to the Association.
- The Association has to make something out of this
(See "Stables," p. 23)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

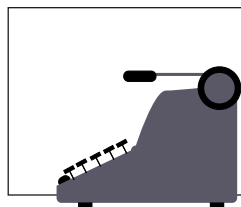
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Your Turn

Nancy Paulson
Seven Lakes North



ager herself, would be involved in the exhibiting." (SLLA Work Session, May 13, 2013).

When Ms. Pennington presented this to the board, she knew the 4-H Competition was for youths only!

What's to say that maybe the numbers aren't what they say they are?

The Association is not making money on every lesson that is given at the stables.

Association should help remedy drainage issues

Dear Editor:

When building our home in 1998, we paid for the road paving and drainage on our property. Through the years, we have had many washouts and more and more damage to our property, causing more and more expense to fix the damage.

Health wise this has been a bad year – Bill received a kidney in October 2012. Two months later the kidney had to be removed because of cancer. Even though he didn't have cancer, it cost another month in the hospital for chemo.

We face many health issues

along with our neighbors, so we don't need the driveway washout "on our list."

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Board to relieve themselves of any liabilities calls our problem an "Act of God."

In 2006, after going through many washouts on our lawyers advice we hired a Road Engineer from Raleigh. Their recommendation was to add more drainage pipes along Simmons. Our drainage pipe is taking care of Smathers, Simmons, and Spong. That's a total of 22 homes. The road in front of our home pitches toward our drainage pipe.

Is this an "Act of God" or a man made mistake?

Mary Ann & Bill Anderson
160 Simmons
Seven Lakes West

Thanks from the Weber Family

Dear Editor:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to all our friends and neighbors for their support, concern, comfort, prayers and countless acts of kindness given to me and our entire family during my husband Ron's illness and unex-

pected death on July 28th.

I can not express in words how much you mean to us and the strength you have given us during this extremely difficult time.

We are truly Blessed to have all of you in our lives.

Rosemary Weber
and Family

Stables

(Continued from page 24)

"deal." We are the ones that are financing all of this.

Just how many of Pennington's clients are non-residents? Are we paying to keep up an amenity that very few

Seven Lakes residents are utilizing? Is Pennington's "program" limiting the hours of operation for trail & pony rides? These questions need to be looked into and answered.

All I'm asking is that someone stop and do some research rather than just rely on "hearsay."

No one in the Association wants their money wasted.



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 5)

tact amendments were approved in a three-to-two vote, with Picerno and Ritter opposed.

After the vote — and perhaps with an eye to how future requests for incentives might be presented more effectively — Picerno said: “If I could see taxpayers benefiting, it could have swayed my vote.”

The County is currently working on an economic development policy that would clarify its position on incentives.

Requests for lottery funds: One approved, one tabled

The Commissioners approved the use of \$138,400 in NC Education lottery funds to enlarge a parking lot at a Pinecrest High School, at the

request of Moore County Schools [MCS] Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin.

A second request — to use lottery funds for the installation of card-swipe entry systems and entrance cameras at the system's schools — was tabled at the request of Chairman Picerno.

Noting that the General Assembly had recently approved the use of lottery funds to support digital learning initiatives, Picerno said it would be good for the Commissioners to have a better understanding of the Board of Education's goals regarding both digital learning and facilities before allocating lottery funds to the security upgrades.

He noted that the two boards are scheduled to hold a joint meeting on September

4, and Griffin indicated that the security project would not be harmed by a brief delay.

Commissioner Caddell asked that MCS share some of its thinking about security measures at that meeting, noting that the elementary school in Newtown, CT, the site of a recent mass shooting, “was locked up tight.”

Other Business

In other business during the Commissioners' Monday, August 6 Meeting, the Board:

- Heard an update from Public Safety Director Phillips that covered progress to date and began to tease apart the recommendations offered in a recent study of the County Fire and EMS system. Phillips said his department and the fire chiefs association expect to have a full response to those recommendations available later this year.
- Heard a report from Jim McNiff on the 2013 Session

of the Board of Equalization and Review. Of more than 69,000 properties in the County, the valuations of 329 were appealed to the Board, which reduced the valuation for 61 and increased the valuation for two.

- Renewed the contract of EMS Medical Director Ronald J. Milewski, increasing his compensation from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year. Milewski supervises the County's paramedics.
- Approved a new contract with Seven Lakes EMS for Medical First Responder and Basic Life Support Transport Ambulance services.
- Approved a \$117,000 contract with the NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] for the relocation and upsizing of a sewer line along NC Highway 211 and Murdocksville Road.

Dance

(Continued from page 21)

accepting registration for the 2013-2014 dance season.

Classes offered include Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop and Tumbling. Preschool combination classes are offered Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Adult classes include hip hop and tap. Seven Lakes Dance is also now offering vocal and piano lessons at the studio with new instructor David Mosely. Private classes in each style of dance, pageant preparation classes and themed birthday parties are also offered upon request.

The Annual Seven Lakes Dance Registration meeting will be Monday, August 26 at 6:00 pm, at 360 MacDougall Dr. in the Seven Lakes Business Park.

Students and parents will learn all about the studio and classes offered. All Seven Lakes Dance staff members will be on hand to answer any questions. Students and adults will be fitted for shoes for each class at the meeting. Seven Lakes Dance instructors include Marcie Milbredt, Lauren Kicklighter, LeAnn Garrison, Kelly Fritz, Debbie Giovanni and voice instructor David Mosely. The studio

works to positively impact each student they teach, as well as promote strong supportive relationships with all Seven Lakes Dance families.

Door prizes will be given including a free month of dance for one child and one adult, a free month of zumba classes and free apparel.

Please visit sevenlakesdance.com for class schedule, pricing, information on instructors and more information or call (910) 673-DNCE (3623) for information.



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Ramapo

(Continued from front page)

ing it with a new one custom fit to the dam. The day to day operation should be automatic and not include an overflow structure that is manual.

Penny Wise

Surprisingly, Sohl's recommendation ran into some opposition from some members of the Lakes and Dam Committee. Not wanting to pay the design fee, they questioned whether the work could be handled in-house.

Director Rich Faraci had met the day before with the Lakes and Dams committee. "We have been in touch with Mike Hall," Faraci said. "He's been here before and he knows the place, although he is not familiar with Ramapo."

"Ramapo is not a high hazard dam. We were able to

talk Mike into coming out here tomorrow to see if it is going to be an easy or complicated repair. The Board can decide after the meeting with Hall whether we can do it in-house and not have to pay an engineering company to do it and save us some money."

Sohl had followed up with a phone call to Hall prior to the meeting.

"I talked to Mike Hall this afternoon," Sohl said. "He does not have an engineer in-house. He actually recommended an engineer firm in Greensboro. He said the one thing that is important, due to the comments made by S&ME, is that the current overflow system does not have sufficient capacity," Sohl said. "That has been stated twice. I recommend we move forward and bid the project out. This was also the consensus of Lakes and Dam Committee from their last meeting."

S&ME had provided one quote. Hall had recommended a second engineering firm. Treasurer Conrad Meyer said, "I would feel better from a finance perspective if we had three quotes."

Faraci reiterated he would still like to have Mike Hall to come down and look at the dam.

Sohl replied, "You are basing your opinion on one contractor. Is that who you would want to base your decision on?"

Sohl then referenced a

recent dam failure in NC.

Meyers agreed with Sohl, "This is time sensitive. We are suffering under high water levels everywhere."

Experience versus Training

"We've got a low priority and it is a low hazard dam," said Lakes and Dam Committee member Don Fentzlaff. The state already told us that they don't need to get involved in this deal."

"People that are coming tomorrow with Hall Construction have been here since 1957," Fentzlaff said. "They have extensive experience in earthen dam repair, sewer lines, and it goes right along with this project. He's got the expertise and knowledge to go in there. We don't need engineers to go in there. They can come in and tell us what we need to do. Why spend that \$13,000 until we know for sure what we have to do?"

Do it the Right Way

Lake Ramapo covers seven

acres has a maximum depth of fifteen feet.

"We clearly do not have enough capacity to face a major storm event," Sohl said. "When you are working with a dam you always have to plan for the highest possible storm event."

"I am with Ray Sohl," resident Salang said. "I have been living here for twelve years. My home is on Lake Ramapo. All of my yard is a lake now."

"In the last 10 days, I have

been cleaning water out of my basement because of this overflow. It scares me. The overflow pipes drain very slowly. If or when we get hit with more rain, I'd better get out of my house — as well as some of my next-door neighbors."

"Do it the right way. That is why we never complain when you raise the association fees, because we know it pays for necessary repairs. We have to do it the right

(See "Ramapo," p. 26)

Stables

(Continued from page 3)

farrier, \$760; vet \$450; and dentist \$160.

"That is what we think we need. We are going to be conducting trail rides and doing a jumping program. We are not going to limit trail rides by getting these horses. Make this a motion with cost not exceed \$4,000," Darr said. The motioned died for lack of a second.



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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 11)

pen?

Director Conrad Meyers suggested encouraging boaters to operate their craft responsibly in high water conditions.

"We should notify all of the boaters on the lakes and ask them to try and observe a little bit respect of properties during high wake," Meyer said. "We had a big problem with trying to enforce this. It has been a real mess that has, unfortunately, happened on a lot on the weekends."

Director Bob Racine made a motion to take no action at this time in enforcing a no wake zone, with Director Bill Hirsch seconding. The vote was four in favor with Darr opposed.

Tennis Courts get Pickled

The Maintenance and the Recreation Committees are learning the art of compromise as they work together with the dilapidated SLLA tennis courts. The courts have needed resurfacing for quite some time.

Nearly two years ago a group of residents expressed a genuine interest in con-

verting one of the tennis courts into two bocce ball courts. The Recreation Committee approved their request and forwarded it to the Board.

The residents who asked for bocce ball courts would like to see it happen sooner than later. The Maintenance Committee would like to tackle all modifications to the courts at one time. It is an expensive and lengthy undertaking and includes resurfacing one tennis court, converting a second tennis court into a pickle ball court, converting a third into two bocce ball courts and two shuffle board courts and fencing the perimeter.

Easy on the knees and joints, Pickle Ball has become a recreation favorite in retirement villages and with former tennis players. Ritter reported that, in Pinehurst #6, more than 290 people are now

playing Pickle Ball.

Board Member Chuck Leach reported that Carolina Sports, of Wake Forest is currently putting together a proposal for the resurfacing.

Darr told *The Times*, "It's a tough mix. That's the maintenance side and we are the recreation side, and we are going to have to work together."

Get the Balls Rolling

After the meeting, a resident suggested creating an inexpensive temporary bocce ball court that would allow residents to begin playing now.

Bocce ball can be played on a natural surface or asphalt. All that is needed is several cross ties and a level surface, which could be created on either the beach or one of the existing tennis courts. For now, he said, the weeds and cracks in the court

could be considered a challenging obstacle.

Paddle Board

Also during the July 31 Open Meeting, the board voted to allow a local company to offer paddleboard classes. The cost is \$25 per person. The same company provides lessons in Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

Tree trimming completed

Tree trimming along roadways in Seven Lakes North

and South is nearly complete for this year, Manager Sohl reported.

Dead trees in common areas have also been removed. A cherry picker with a sixty-foot reach reached high into the canopies with an arborist accompanying the trimmers to make sure the trees health was not compromised.

Sohl requested that future trimming be done on an annual basis, with the cost worked into the budget.

Rummage Wanted!

The Chapel in the Pines is holding its 30th annual rummage sale on Saturday, October 19, at the Old Gym in West End. If you have items you would like to donate please call Wil and Nancy Ayres at 673-1288 to arrange for a pickup.



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Ramapo

(Continued from page 26)

way."

Too Many Chiefs?

As several members of the Board speculated and contributed their own thoughts about the best approach to repairing the dam, Director Chuck Leach spoke up: "In the military, when a commander makes a statement, you follow him. We have a community manager that is in charge of the second largest earthen dam in the country. There are a lot of micromanagers going around trying to micromanage him."

"There is considerable liability and exposure for the Association if the construction is not done by qualified engineer," Board President Steve Ritter said. "I support the manager."

A motion was made to solicit bids from at least two additional engineering firms.

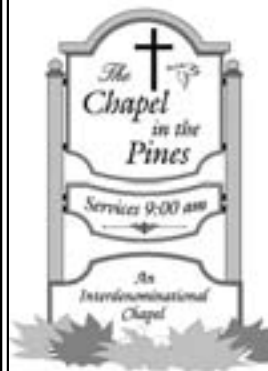


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Foxfire Special Meeting

(Continued from front page)

we are not close to being able to do this. We still need to get some feedback and get some details.”

“The week of the 15th, that’s what she told me,” Brough said, referring to Leland. “It’s got to happen in that regard. If we don’t have an agreement or understanding, then Hobbs-Upchurch engineering firm is not going to do the work.”

Stonehill Not in Contract

The one element of the County’s draft agreement that caused the most concern among Council members was the omission of language regarding the provision of water to the Stonehill Pines development, which lies within the Village limits.

During the July 25 Work Session, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco said, Commissioner Larry Caddell had assured the Council that any revenue the County derived from extending water to Stonehill Pines would be used to offset the \$1.2 million cost of connecting the County and Foxfire water systems.

“That is nowhere in this draft,” Frusco said.

Brough had also researched the County’s reimbursement policy. “The County does not have a reimbursement policy,” Brough said. “There is no way for them to pay us back.”

“That certainly is not what was said to us,” Frusco said. “What was said to us was that they [Stonehill] had an agreement to pay them [the County] certain money and that they would put it into writing to us. In writing the contract, the money Stonehill Pines paid to them would be placed against our debt.”

Time Crunch

“Maybe someone forgot to tell her [Attorney Leland],” Durham said. “They are under the same time crunch that we are. We all understand that this is problematic — that we have to be careful and take our time looking over, otherwise, mistakes will be made.”

During the July 25 Work

Session, Caddell had told the Council: “When Foxfire came to us asking to do this, Commissioner [Nick] Picerno and myself met with Stonehill. If they actually start the development, they have to write a check to pay for it [a water line connecting the development to the County water system]. They have already agreed to that. They will write a check against the debt.”

Councilman McCue brought along copy of the original agreement among the County, the Village, and Stonehill Pines.

McCue quoted, “The Village Council approves the request of Moore County Public Works to provide water as requested by Stonehill Pines for a development in the extraterritorial jurisdiction

of Foxfire Village, subject to the condition that the extension of the County’s water utility system to such development be arranged and sized so that upon request by Foxfire and approval by the County, Foxfire can conveniently connect to and obtain water from the county system in order to provide water to Foxfire’s existing or future customers. Should the area that comprises the proposed Stonehill Pines Development be annexed into the Village the Village Council has no objection to Moore County Public Works owning and operating the water utility that services this development.”

Impact on Annexation

Brough also noted that

there was no mention of annexation in the draft agreement. Currently, Foxfire’s policy is to provide water to property owners only if they are voluntarily annexed into the Village.

“I raised this issue with her [Leland], and it is something that we had talked about,” Brough said. “They are not sure if they could or would do this [i.e., continue to insist on annexation before providing water]. I am not sure either . . . This is a sig-

nificant issue. It is critically important that, if the policy stays in effect, something needs to be put in there. There would be nothing to prevent the County from providing water for property that has not been annexed.”

Fine Tuning

The agreement as a whole needs to be fine-tuned, Brough concluded. “It’s all up in the air — that’s the only thing I can say. This

(See “Foxfire,” p. 29)



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Foxfire Special Meeting

(Continued from page 28)

needs some work, assuming that you are going to walk down this road at all," Brough said. He then went through the agreement item by item, restructuring it and making recommendations.

"There are some other things that were supposed to be in here that are not," Durham said. "This is the very beginning and it needs a lot of work. We need to be deliberate here and work our way through."

Cart before the Horse

"Before we go to all that, we need to make our own decision of if and when we want to do this," Frusco said. "The reality is we need to tell them that we cannot meet their deadline — not and do service to the Village."

Mayor Erickson and Councilmen Durham and McCue agreed with Frusco.

"I think we have got a lot more work and discussion of whether or not we are going to take this deal," McCue said. "We just had the meeting a few days ago, and we haven't discussed anything. We haven't made the decision to do this at all, and I agree we should probably dash their expectations that it will happen by mid-August."

But Councilman Vic Koos was not convinced it was

time to throw in the towel.

"The County might say that we have indecision," Koos said, "but they have nobody to blame but themselves. A catastrophic event could damage our water, and I can't live thinking what if. It has happened in other places; we can't assume it won't happen here. I don't know if we can turn this down."

Other Options

Aside from the possibility of a catastrophic event, the Village's water system currently functions well and provides adequate water.

Brough noted that there were options other than selling the system to Moore County. In the original Stonehill agreement, once the line is laid, the Village would have the option of tapping on and buying water from Moore County. Brough also asked if the Council had considered

keeping its own water system and paying to have the line laid.

"We were going to keep our own system and buy water," Erickson recollected. "I don't know if we ever asked that question — hook us up and we will buy water from you. I wasn't in on the Long Range Committee discussions, but it might be an option."

Erickson pointed out that the zero percent financing the County is seeking from the state is not uncommon. He said, "My understanding is that zero percent has been offered every year for a number of years. It has happened for X number of years and may happen for X number of years in the future."

A Continuing Priority

Water will not be put on the Village's back burner.

"It needs to be on the agenda of every single work ses-

sion," Frusco said. "We at least have the skeleton of a contract. I was shocked that there were only two pages. We now have a skeleton of what they are expecting. We can work with and develop it and make sure we know what we want to do."

Both McCue and Durham agreed that the research by the Long Range Planning Committee and public input gathered will prove valuable for further discussion.

"Without water there is no

growth," Durham said. If we want to grow some, then we need assurances that we will have water for the future. Nobody knows how much water is in the ground, but we do know that there are some alternative sources."

"Our water system is fine now," McCue said. "I am not worried about next week, or next month, or even next year. It's five years from now, ten years from now. The future has a way of hitting you in the face."



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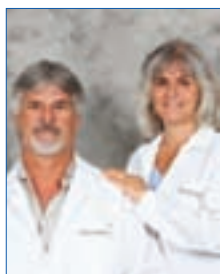


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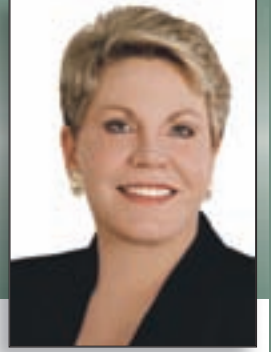
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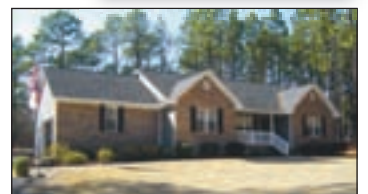
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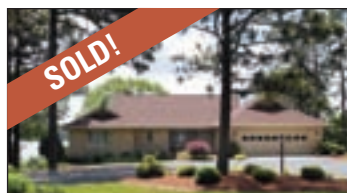
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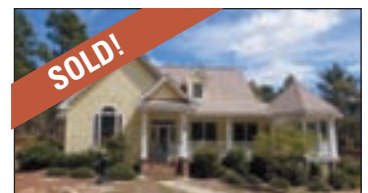
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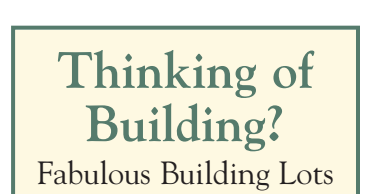
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